



PUBLISHED DAILY AND TRI-WEEKLY BY
EDGAR SNOWDEN.
TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 2, 1879.

Several of our Virginia contemporaries have of late been expressing their ideas quite freely upon the subject of the availability of certain respective gentlemen as democratic candidates for the next presidency. As the South supplies all but forty-seven of the number of electoral votes required to elect a president she is certainly entitled to the privilege of expressing her preferences for the candidate for whom she is to vote, and for this reason alone the papers to which we refer are justified in doing what they can conscientiously toward assisting or opposing the nomination of any of the several gentlemen prominently spoken of in connection with the democratic nomination for the next presidency. When, however, the lack of unity of the northern democrats; their selfishness, which is developed to such a degree that it has given away a democratic State rather than abate in those possessed of it one jot or tittle of their desire for individual preferment; their provincialism, which leads their southern followers into difficulties, and then not only deserts, but turns against them; their glaringly apparent deficiency in statesmanship; and, consequently, want of political acumen; we say, when all these failings of northern democrats are remembered, the South is not only justified in taking an active part in the nomination of the next democratic candidate for the presidency, but would be derelict to the most positive dictates of wisdom if it did not. This being so, and nobody doubts it who is at all familiar with the grovelling intrigues the democracy has sustained by the South's blindly following the lead of northern democrats, it is our duty to say to the democrats that the chances of electing their candidate, whoever he may be, is extremely small, and that the silliness of which they stand accused will assume a phase of more marked defiance if they nominate a man who cannot concentrate upon himself the entire strength of the party. That General Hancock would be such a candidate is apparent to all aware of the American quality of doing ineffectually influenced by first impressions. Let a public man be once charged with an error, venial or grave, and no matter what irrefragable evidence of his innocence he may be able to produce, nearly all of his political opponents, and many even of his party friends, will forever believe him guilty. Such unfortunately is the case with General Hancock. Thousands of people North as well as South blame him for the part he took in the murder of Mrs. Surratt, and the loss of the votes of those thousands will be certain to defeat him if he shall be the democratic nominee.

Because the democrats of South Carolina are discussing the policy of restricting the privilege of suffrage to that State to those who can read and write—a necessary qualification in several of the New England States; and because those in Yazoo, Mississippi, have defeated the Independent white candidate for the Legislature and elected a colored democrat, the radicals are already beginning to talk about the restrictions upon the freedom of the elective franchise and the intimidation of voters in the South, and the stirring of the minds of their followers for the next presidency by throwing out the votes of the two States mentioned, provided such an outrage be necessary to secure the achievement of their purpose. If an educational qualification be imposed upon the elective franchise in the North, we see no good reason why the mere talk about imposing it in the South, where it would affect whites and blacks alike, should be such a heinous offense, nor do we see why the white democrats of the South should not if they choose elect a colored member of their own party to office in preference to a white democratic deserter from their own ranks. But where a predisposing cause for taking offense exists anything, however slight, will be sufficient to excite it into manifest rebellion, and all remembering how the wolf accused the lamb of maddening the water, though the latter stood below it in the running stream.

Among all the multitudinous attacks in Washington, visitors to that city are struck with the remarkable absence of one which strangers thick should rise superior to all the rest, a colossal one erected as an epitaph to sneer at thieves. To show that such thievery prevails every week and corner of the national capital we have only to allude to the recent theft of Secretary Sherman's annual report and Mr. Hayes' message to Congress. If pamphlets are not secure in the White House and Treasury, there need be no surprise at the carelessness about the monetary transactions at those places.

SOCIETY ITEMS.—The Washington Sunday Herald says: "Miss Cecelia Parker, one of the belles of Warrenton, Va., has been on a short visit to the Misses Graham, of the West End, left for home Friday, with the regret of her many friends and admirers."

"Representative and Mrs. Albert Willis, of Louisville, Ky., have been heartily welcomed on their return here. They are at the Wigwag house. Miss Mark, of Louisville, who accompanied them here, is visiting relatives in Alexandria."

"Thieves broke through and stole the dainties Mrs. Moss Ray had prepared for the Thaksving dinner, to which had been invited guests to meet her daughter and son-in-law—Mr. and Mrs. Qualtrough. This occurred Wednesday night, and as she could not replace the stolen Thaksving day, she was compelled to notify those she had invited of the unfortunate occurrence."

Killed by a Mob.—The Democratic delegate elections in this city to-day were attended with much disorder. In the 5th ward Bernard Kiley was killed by a mob.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

The decrease in the Public debt during last month is reported at \$799,825 13, and since June 30th \$11,157 53 54.

The loss by fire in Philadelphia yesterday, which destroyed Meagher's paper warehouse and other buildings, was \$400,000.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has begun the survey of a new branch, to be known as the Somerset, Cambria and Johnstown Railroad.

Just previous to the adjournment of the Senate yesterday Mr. Ferry, of Michigan, briefly announced the death of his late colleague, Hon. Zachariah Chandler.

The Permanent Exhibition Company at Philadelphia have passed a resolution offering the exhibition building to the two great political parties for their national conventions next year.

Gen. Grant arrived in Dubuque, Iowa, yesterday. He was received by the mayor and council and escorted through the streets by military and civic organizations.

The White River Union came into Los Pinos, Colorado, Saturday, and went before the commission. The witnesses all were concealed arms. The members of the commission kept guns and revolvers near. Both sides endeavor to look at ease and inspire confidence.

The trustees of the Brooklyn, N. Y., Tabernacle have resolved that "the wanton and persistent persecution of the pastor, T. D. Talmage, demands the separation of the Tabernacle from the Presbyterian denomination so long as the wrong shall continue."

The Vicksburg, Shreveport and Texas railroad was sold yesterday at New Orleans to Henry R. Jackson, in trust for the bondholders, for \$60,000 cash, the purchasers to pay a mortgage claim of \$201,000, with interest from April 13, 1875.

Notwithstanding the President's statement that all was quiet along the Rio Grande, a dispatch from Washington says Col. Tucker is urging upon the War Department the necessity of immediate reconquest of Brownsville, Texas, by troops before the residents of that city are compelled to move away on account of fear.

VIRGINIA NEWS.—The protracted drought has permitted the spread of forest fires in the Potomac Swamp, and they are now burning extensively in the timber near Deer creek.

Richard Chamberlain, a prominent young man of Norfolk, died suddenly in New York Sunday night. He was a Confederate soldier during the war, and belonged to McGregor's battery.

The residence of Rev. A. R. Plippo, near Gateway station, in Caroline county, was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday. All of his furniture and household goods were consumed. No insurance.

Saturday night J. M. Phelps, who keeps a dyeing establishment in Petersburg, was assaulted by James Carter, a negro man, whom he had charged with theft, and so badly beaten that his life is despaired of.

The mystery case of Miss Virginia Rawls, who disappeared from her home in Suffolk on Friday night was cleared up yesterday by the discovery of the body in the Neponset river. She was 20 years of age, and the suicide, it is said, was the result of a love affair.

In a gala of wild Friday night at the month of the James river the water boat Lillie, Capt. Henry Jarvis, of Norfolk, was capsized. All of the crew were rescued in a half-drowned condition, except Edmund Jarvis, who disappeared in seven fathoms water.

William Schneider was sent to the grand jury in Richmond Saturday upon the charge of forging the name of John Hancock to a bill of exchange upon E. A. Russ, of St. Louis, Mo., for \$5,000 in gold. Schneider was the companion of Kitter, the failed tobacco buyer who is now in jail in Richmond awaiting trial by the House of Representatives on a charge of forgery.

Among the gentlemen mentioned in connection with the position of the superintendent of the Western Lunatic Asylum are Disa, A. M. Fawcett, L. W. Shelton and B. P. Reese, of Staunton; Dr. S. S. Glover, of Wytheville; Dr. Benjamin Blackford, of Lynchburg; Dr. Philip Smith, of Clarke; and Dr. Casper Henkel, of Shenandoah. The election is fixed for the 11th of December.

SOUTHERN MEDICAL COLLEGE.—The Atlanta, Ga., Constitution says that the opening of the Southern Medical College was a remarkable tribute to the energy of those who were most interested in its success. The institution was not projected until last June. It was at once taken hold of by men who were determined to succeed. They went right to work. By the first of October they had completed a large brick college in the center of the city.

They did not expect to open with more than twenty students at the best. To-day there are over fifty students in regular attendance, and the number is steadily increasing. The students come from all parts of Georgia and other Southern States. This college has an able faculty who are devoted to it. Its trustees are among the most prominent men in the success of this, the second medical college in Atlanta, is a tribute to the energy and enterprise of the city.

Among the most distinguished members of the faculty is Dr. Urban S. Payne, late of Pennsylvania, the father of Mr. Louis E. Payne, of this city.

Damages Awarded.—In the Circuit Court for Harford county, Maryland, in the suit of John G. Stockham and wife against the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad, which has been on trial for two weeks, the jury yesterday rendered a verdict awarding the plaintiffs three thousand one hundred dollars damages. Mrs. Stockham claimed that sufficient care was not exercised by the defendant's servants while she was leaving a train at Perrymanville, and that she fell and received serious injuries.

To be Hanged.—LEBANON, Pa., Dec. 2.—Henry Wiser, one of the murderers of Joseph Rober, was this morning sentenced to be hanged. He attempted to deliver a written statement, but was stopped by Judge Henderson. This is the insurance company and murder case for which Drews and Trichen were hanged recently. Sentence on Wiser was deferred that he might testify against Zedman, another of the gang. His evidence was discarded, however, and Zedman, after having been once convicted was acquitted on his second trial.

The Late New York Election.—NEW YORK, December 2.—The rumor mentioned in one of the evening papers is repeated this morning, that the State Board of Canvassers will probably certify the election of Clarkson N. Potter, Lieutenant Governor of the State, in consequence of irregularities by some of the county boards in counting as setting aside votes intended for him. The difference in the vote cast for Hoke and Potter respectively is said to be less than one hundred.

Charged with Forgery.—NEW YORK, Dec. 2.—A Wilkesbarre, Pa., special states that Mr. Lawrence Myers, a priest, was indicted yesterday on a charge of forgery. The action grows out of a suit tried on Saturday in the Court of Common Pleas to collect \$1,200 and interest, given by one W. L. Paine, to a gambling debt. The accused is reported to be one of the wealthiest men in Wyoming Valley.

Confession.—BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 2.—Capt. Andrew McKenney, who was arrested for the murder of Andrew Russell, on the barge Walton, last Friday morning, has made a full confession of the crime.

FROM WASHINGTON.

Special Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 2, 1879.

The proceedings of neither House of Congress were interesting this morning, and the session of both was short, the flags on both houses being toward before 11 A.M. past one o'clock. In the House Judge Harris introduced a resolution setting apart the 21st day of January for the consideration of the bill providing for a settlement of accounts with the States for the advances they made the government during the war of 1812. The Judge got Mr. Wood to postpone making a motion to adjourn until he could offer this resolution, and it was on the point of getting through, when Mr. Willett, of Michigan, objected, and one objection was sufficient to carry it over under the rule.

Mr. Harris offered a bill to amend section 2221 of the revised statutes so as to authorize U. S. Circuit Courts to appoint an equal number of deputy marshals from each political party upon the application of the constituted authorities of these parties. As the law now stands the marshals appoint an unlimited number of deputies, who, as a matter of course, are republicans and partisans, and Mr. Harris said he was opposed to the whole scheme, but as its repeal could not be effected, he favored this amendment so that democrats could, at least, have an equal chance with the republicans. A similar bill was attached to one of the vetoed appropriation bills last summer, and as Mr. Harris said then he was not opposed to it on its merits, but solely on account of the manner in which its adoption was presented, it is thought he may not oppose it now.

In the House to-day Mr. Price, of Iowa, offered a resolution depriving any interference with the currency, and Mr. Fort, of Illinois, offered one negating Mr. Hayes and Secretary Sherman's ideas about the withdrawal of the greenbacks and the suspension of the silver coinage. As both of these gentlemen are prominent republicans this looks as though their party is split on the money question, and that a part of it at least is not in accord with the administration. In the Senate Mr. Gordon offered a resolution favorable to the construction of the Nicaraguan interoceanic canal. Mr. Burdette delivered himself of a speech in support of the doctrine, and Mr. Speech of West Virginia introduced another resolution in reference to the mission of his life—the investigation of frauds in the Treasury.

A caucus of the democrats of the Senate was held this morning for the purpose of making the rearrangement of committees usual at the commencement of every session, and as stated yesterday for equalizing the official patronage of the democratic Senators. The latter subject was discussed, but no definite action was taken on it. It is understood, however, that some of the republican officers of the Senate will have to go in order to accomplish the purpose for which the caucus was held.

Charles Allen, who has been here for several years past endeavoring to get the administration to see it in connection with the republican members of the Virginia Legislature to induce them to vote for a debt, paying conservative for the Senate, left yesterday without accomplishing the object of his mission. The administration want the republicans to remain firmly united and let the democrats sustain their difficulties among themselves as best they can.

With this end in view, Dugger and Coles, colored republicans, who have also been here looking around, have gone home. Dugger is looking for a job for J. E. Lewis, and Coles for Dr. Smith. It is said that the Norfoks, colored, will not support Geo. Wickham, because he excluded colored people from the ladies car on his road, and that the West Virginia republicans are also using their influence against the State because his railroad patronage in that State was used as to break up their party there.

It is understood from private sources that Mr. Tilden will not state whether or not he will be a candidate before the National Democratic Convention, but that whether he will be or not he and his friends will oppose the nomination of Mr. Hendricks for the second place on the ticket; that he thinks the split in the democracy of Indiana on the money question and individual rivalries will so weaken the party there that the best it can do and concentrate their efforts upon Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey, the electoral vote of the first and last of which equals that of Indiana. In case he does not equal a candidate he will use all his influence to prevent the nomination of any one who took any part or lot in the electoral commission. This of course is a shot at Bayard. It is also said that the Seymour boom is altogether fictitious, and is kept up by Tilden's friends; so that when Mr. Seymour shall positively refuse to allow the use of his name that of Mr. Tilden can be substituted.

One of the White House has been looked after by the horse was stolen. Correspondents were refused admission to the Secretary's and clerks offices this morning, and told that such business as they had there could be transacted in the ante rooms.

Rev. Dr. W. U. Murkland, pastor of the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church, Baltimore, was married this afternoon by Rev. Dr. Bullock, of Alexandria, to Miss Austen, daughter of Dr. Austen, who died about a year ago, leaving a life insurance of \$80,000 to his three children, besides a large estate. The bride is a beautiful, intelligent and accomplished young lady.

John Keith, Judge Smith and Capt. Gardner, of London, and Major Douglas Tyler of Loudoun, arrived in the city to-day, some of them to attend to business. Senator Withers has arrived, and was in his seat to-day.

W. H. Mearns, a former of Alexandria, and for many years past foreman of the Star office, died yesterday. It is said that the Old Fellow of that city will attend his funeral.

STOCK CATTLE TRADE.—H. H. SALL, of Washington county, Va., sold to Mr. Thor, Glasscock of upper Fairfax, this week 374 cattle. During the week Mr. Sall's sales to farmers in this county have approximated 500 head. The trade between southern Virginia and Fairfax, Loudoun, Rappahannock and Calverton counties has attained dimensions that few persons outside the cattle trade dream of. Cattle brokers differ as to the number of cattle brought into the four counties from the southwest. None of them place the number at cattle below 50,000 head, and some contend it reaches 65,000 head. At \$20 per head, the lowest estimate would make the trade between the sections a million of dollars.—*Warrenton Intelligencer.*

The President's Message.—TORONTO, Ont., Dec. 2.—A special cable dispatch from London to the Globe says: "The Times, discussing the President's message, says that the Canadians are no doubt conscious of the rights of the Dominion over their own coast; but they must feel the inconvenience of the restriction of the coast to the convenience of the U. S. fishermen. It is to be hoped that it will be necessary, and we should urge them to agree to a permanent settlement on equitable terms."

COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY.—Great Falls Manufacturing Company vs. Davis & Adams, executor. Answered by J. E. Davis and S. F. Beach for plaintiff in error. The bill of exchange for defendant was read, and submitted. H. E. Davis, of Washington, D. C., was allowed to practice as counsel in this court. Marshall and wife vs. Mosley. Dismissed.

Attended in Woods.—PROVIDENCE, R. I., Dec. 2.—In Woodscock this morning Mrs. Timothy Moore, distressed at the death of her child, cut her throat, and will probably die.

CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 2, 1879.

SENATE.

Senator Gordon introduced the following joint resolution: "Whereas, the prospect of the construction of an interoceanic canal in Nicaragua is recognized as a necessity for the prosperity of the maritime and commercial interests of the United States, and

And whereas, such an enterprise must of necessity be considered as of international utility under the protection of the United States, therefore be it resolved, &c., That the Government of the United States pledges to accord full and entire protection to the company to which shall be granted a concession by the Government of Nicaragua for the construction of said interoceanic canal, and will secure to said company the peaceful enjoyment of the rights conceded by such concession."

It was referred to the Committee on Commerce when appointed. Mr. Burdette then called up his resolution of the last session reaffirming the Monroe doctrine in connection with the proposed Panama Canal and proceeded to speak thereon.

At the conclusion of Mr. Burdette's remarks the Senate, on motion of Mr. Garland, went into executive session at 12:45 m., and when the doors were opened, at 1 p. m., adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

A resolution, offered by Mr. Price, of Iowa, declaring it to be the opinion of the House that no change should be made in the currency laws at the present session of Congress, was referred; as was also a joint resolution introduced by Mr. Ellis, of Iowa, providing the protection of the government to the Nicaraguan Inter-oceanic Canal Company, when it shall have obtained a grant from the Nicaraguan government.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

The democratic Senators met in caucus this morning. There was a large attendance. Senator Mallory, the chairman of the caucus, announced that the meeting had been called as usual, at the beginning of the session to consider the subject of revising the democratic membership of the committees prior to their re-appointment by the Senate. No vacancies having been created by death or resignation in the democratic membership during the recess of Congress, there being no applications presented for majority re-election, it was resolved that the majority re-election shall remain as fixed at the extra session and the chairman was directed to notify the republicans that the committee position occupied by the late Senator Chandler are at the disposal of the minority.

A somewhat general discussion then ensued concerning the distribution of the Senate patronage. Several of the Senators complained that it had not been equitably distributed, and said that when the officers of the Senate were sworn in on the subject they referred to the caucus resolutions of last year, which bound them to retain certain employees, except in the event of mismanagement and contending that the best remedy for the patronage they had done the best they could. The question of amending these resolutions was then brought up. There was no disposition manifested to interfere with the one by which the Senate's officers were required to retain all Senate Union soldiers that were on the roll; but it was remarked that they are still kept by the Senate a number of men placed in office by the republicans, who were never in the army in any capacity, and a desire was expressed by some of the members of the caucus to replace them with democrats. After some discussion a resolution directing an enquiry into the nature of the instructions given by the caucus at the last session, and several other resolutions providing specifically for the retention of Captain Bassett and various others, were referred to a committee. The caucus was closed by the members of the caucus expressing their regret that they were unable to do more for the republicans, who were never in the army in any capacity, and a desire was expressed by some of the members of the caucus to replace them with democrats. After some discussion a resolution directing an enquiry into the nature of the instructions given by the caucus at the last session, and several other resolutions providing specifically for the retention of Captain Bassett and various others, were referred to a committee.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS.—The republican senators held a very brief caucus this afternoon, and referred to a committee, consisting of Messrs. Morrill, Ferry and Rollins, the subject of filling the vacancies caused by the death of Senator Chandler in the membership of the Committees on Commerce and Naval Affairs. The caucus committee will also take cognizance of any requests that may be presented by members of the minority for exchanges of committee positions.

Grand Lodge of Good Templars of Virginia.

[Reported for the Alexandria Gazette.] This body closed its twelfth annual session in Winchester on Friday night last, after a harmonious session of four days. Col. J. J. Hickman, R. W. G. T., was present, and presided over its deliberations. Much business was transacted, which will doubtless prove beneficial to the interest of the Order.

The membership of the Order in the State now numbers eight thousand seven hundred, with two hundred and twenty subordinate lodges. Over one hundred lodges were represented at this session.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year, viz: Dr. W. S. Christian, of Urbana, G. W. C. T.; Hon. Thos. B. Taylor, Lincoln, G. W. C. T.; Miss Betty S. Rowland, Richmond, G. W. C. T.; Geo. W. Hixmeyer, Vienna, G. W. C. T.; Rev. H. M. Wharton, Luray, G. W. C. T.; W. H. Charlton, Fredericksburg, G. W. C. T.; X. C. Manly, of Norfolk, G. W. C. T.; L. R. Ashby, Delaplane, G. W. C. T.; Miss Rebecca R. Pidgeon, Brunetta, G. W. C. T.; Miss Delia R. LeFevre, Fairfax, G. W. C. T.; G. W. M. A. C. Macphailin, Warsaw, G. W. C. T.

M. J. N. Stubbs, of Gloucester county, W. A. Lusher, of Fauquier, and Hon. W. W. Briggs, of Bedford, were elected representatives to the R. W. Grand Lodge of the World, which meets in New York in May next.

The Grand Lodge adjourned on Saturday morning to meet in the city of Portsmouth in November next. Public meetings were held on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, when Dr. W. S. Christian, Hon. W. B. Barry, Rev. H. M. Wharton and others, and very large numbers were initiated in the subordinate lodge in Winchester.

RAILROAD MATTERS.—Mr. C. P. Huntington, Gen. Echols, Gen. St. John and other railroad men have been in Kentucky for the past week or two on business connected with Mr. Huntington's new road—the Lexington and Big Sandy—which is to connect the Chesapeake and Ohio with the western roads. Two routes had been suggested, and last week the route which the road is to run was finally settled upon. The road, starting from Huntington, will go through Ashland, Ky., on the Ohio river, and then back through the mineral hills to Mt. Sterling. The length of the new road will be eighty-eight miles. Work on the bridge over the Big Sandy river has been progressing rapidly since August, and it will not be long before the contracts for grading the construction will be let. The road is expected to be finished in the early part of 1881.—*Knox State.*

At several points along the canal, from Cumberland down, fires along the tow path are destroying the shade trees so essential in the summering season for the protection of men and stock.

From Richmond.

RICHMOND, Dec. 2.—The General Assembly convenes to-morrow, and already a majority of the members of both branches are in the city.

Last night the Debt Payors, Readjusters and Republicans held caucuses or informal conferences in reference to action to be taken by each party, but no definite conclusion was reached. At the Debt Payor's caucus a committee was appointed to prepare a plan of action and report to-night.

The Readjuster's conference was secret, but it has been determined that no definite plan of action was expressed in their ability to carry out their original intentions. That the Republicans, especially the colored ones, would join them in the election of officers little doubt was expressed.

The Republican caucus was composed of legislators, "leading statesmen," like John F. Lewis, and others, Federal office holders and some few prominent residents of the Republican persuasion. B. W. Hoxie, chairman of the Radical State Committee, presided, and made a speech, counselling harmonious action and a firm stand, and declaring that this was the golden opportunity for the Readjusters to get the balance of power in the General Assembly, and without their votes neither of the two parties had a majority, therefore they must now devise measures to utilize their strength to the best possible advantage.

Major Joseph W. Barker, Republican readjuster, Senator from Chesterfield, in a speech before the meeting, expressed his determination not to be dictated to by outsiders, and said that he would sooner vote for a Conservative Readjuster than a Republican Debt Payor.

Col. George C. Culpeper, took a prominent part in the meeting, and Mr. John F. Lewis was called upon to act as chairman, but declined on account of ill health. Several of the members of the Legislature expressed themselves as disgusted with the attempt on the part of "outsiders" to dictate to them what course should be pursued.

Several speeches were made, exhibiting anything but harmonious action on the part of the Republicans, and the meeting adjourned amid much confusion. An attempt to have the presence of members of Debt Payors and Readjusters, and many outsiders.

Letter from Richmond.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 1.—Members of the Legislature have been coming in slowly to-day. To-night there are perhaps half of them in the city. The conservatives and readjusters have each held informal conferences, the former meeting at the Exchange, the latter in the White office. As soon as a readjuster reaches the city he is at once escorted to the White building, and up two flights of steps into a room, where he finds a nice spread set out, and one very fine gentleman was so enthusiastic, and perhaps ever full, as to let out the fact that he "got just the best whiskey there you ever saw." Cigars are always handed around after the report.

Gen. Mahone has been in the city off and on for the past two weeks, and is located at the Whig office. In former times it was his habit to stop at the Exchange Hotel, but now he has his room in the Whig building and his meals sent there from a restaurant. The first thing done—before the Readjuster is introduced to the incoming member is introduced to the General, who proceeds to assure him that the conservative are, &c., &c. All of Gen. Mahone's personal friends are here, and it is evident that he has brought with him the machinery at his command, which he thinks requisite to manufacture a Senator. It is no longer dictated by his friends that he wants the Senatorship, and he is striving heaven and earth to get it.

The Mahone party already exhibits signs of embarrasment at the number of office seekers in their ranks, and some of their leaders fear that this will, in a measure, clog their movements. For the Speakership of the House Moffatt and Lacy are the two most prominent candidates on their side. Three days ago Lacy was considered the stronger of the two, but to-day Moffatt has developed much strength, and it is evident that he will give his opponent a hard run, and the chances are that he will beat him. Neither Moffatt or Lacy are in the city yet. Major Marshall Hanger will be the conservative nominee for Speaker.

Mr. Pat H. McCullough, of Palaski, has announced himself a candidate for the Clerkship of the House on the republican side. He was a member of the last House and was defeated by a conservative in the recent election.

The efforts of the republicans to hold a conference to-night were unavailing. They were evidently divided in sentiment. Norton, the negro Senator from York, who is Mahone's right hand man among the negroes, and Mr. Joseph Walker, republican Senator from Gloucester, evidently wanted to break the meeting up before any action could be taken. Walker, in an avowed Mahone man. It was plain that there was a division of sentiment among them to-night, and much feeling was shown on both sides.

Mahone's men still claim Brother, of Culpeper, as having committed suicide to Mahone for Senator despite the assertion of the Legislature that he was sent to the Legislature as a McCullough man.

As to the offices the Mahone party have as yet secured upon no one. Mr. John J. Campbell, of Petersburg, a warm friend of Gen. Mahone, is announced as a candidate for the Clerkship of the Senate. Capt. Geo. Williams is also a candidate for the same position, both on the readjuster side.

Judge George Stevens, of Nelson, says his friends have been kind enough to mention him in connection with the office of First Auditor, Second Auditor and Clerk of the House. He thinks however he will take Second Auditor. There is little doubt now that the programme on this side is to make a clean sweep.

No conservatives present a bold front, and show no signs of yielding. Unless great progress is made to-morrow there will be but little chance of the House organizing Wednesday.

STENOGRAPH.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Heavy shipments of steel from Germany to the United States are noted as significant.

The Irish Home Rule agitation appears to have temporarily subsided.

The vineyards of Malaga have been attacked by phylloxera.

The Car and Carowitz will meet at Moscow on Tuesday, where the delivery will be made and an address will be delivered.

Baker Pasha has started for his post as the representative of the Sultan's supported the introduction of reforms throughout the whole Asia Minor.

It is stated that in the West of Ireland such hunger, poverty and want are now to be seen as have never been known since the Great Famine.

Letter from Leesburg.

[Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.]

LEESBURG, VA., Nov. 29.—It seems that there is a disposition to examine the lands of Virginia. Shortly before the election two Pennsylvanians were to see me and get some information about lands. They had been educated to the belief that limestone lands were the best in the world. One week ago an Englishman, newly landed, came on the same railroad. He and two other Englishmen were with him seemed to be surprised that I had no pocket map of Virginia. I found was astonished that no such map could be found at the book store, and indeed I have not seen one since the war. He was prospecting for a sheep farm, having been engaged in that business in England. His ideas of sheep business were in fact feeding on roots and erica. The other Englishman with him was a resident land holder, who purchased near Leesburg two years ago, and who is doing well. The other had been employed by a gentleman near Leesburg and had gone to England two years since, and had returned to seek his fortune in the new world. Two men "met up" with me to-day, American born. They all seem to avoid the mountain farms, which are really the most productive in a series of ten years, as they resist the draughts better. The Pennsylvanians were highly amused at the idea of \$2 to 3 m. being a high tax. While Pennsylvania has no State tax on land, raising the taxes from corporations, these gentlemen stated the local tax was \$1.50 on \$100, \$1.25 being for schools; and that they expected the 25 cents to be added, as it was a temporary tax for the purpose of building school houses. The tax law has recently come under my notice. It was 2.31 per cent, \$1,523 worth of land being taxed and producing \$35.

There has been a great rush for coupons this week, and \$20, which are usually lower, still as high as 88, the tax payer only saving 12 cent. One German settler, farmer who pays \$75 State tax paid in cash to-day to save the penalty of five per cent on Monday. On the supposition that \$10,000,000 has been funded the coupons receivable for taxes will be reduced from about \$1,215,000 to about \$1,000,000, which must, naturally so increase the value of the coupons as to render them less and less used in the payment of taxes.

The corn crop in Loudoun is a good one, except in localities where the storms of last summer broke it down. The fodder is generally saved, but a good deal was lost by the dry weather. The wheat crop was a good one. The heavy snow which was generally put in when the ground was almost dry and the soil hard, the grain easily, and very little was lost. It has come up well, and the heavy snow and the general weather seems to be a good one. I am glad to see Alexandria seems to be prospering. Her redemption is within the grasp of her own people. They are ready to have money enough, but they seem to be distrustful of their own people. They have great advantages and the unsurpassed healthfulness of the place is not the least of them. Let them take heart.

The Poor Public Schools of Virginia.

[The Editor of the Alexandria Gazette.]

November 1 noticed that Dr. Butler shows the number of public schools in Virginia in 1878 and 1879. The number in operation in 1878 was 4,419; in 1879 2,491; pupils in 1878 22,231; in 1879 108,074.

Amherst in 1878 had 2,014; in 1879 1,141
Appomattox " 1,164 " 34
Bedford " 5,057 " 2,2